

JUNE 10, 2021 MINUTES

The regular meeting of the Sutter-Yuba Mosquito & Vector Control District Board of Trustees was called to order by Board President Harris at 4:30 P.M., Thursday, June 10, 2021.

PRESENT: President Harris, Secretary Sanbrook, Trustees Schmidl, Kirchner and Link

BY TELEPHONE: Trustees Ghag and Guzman

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Manager Abshier and General Foreman Hunt

EMERGENCY AGENDA ITEMS: None

CONSENT AGENDA:

- A. Minutes of May 13, 2021
- B. Bills for May 2021
- C. Merit Increase for Joe Songer, Field Foreman: Songer is being recommended for a salary increase effective June 1, 2021. The salary increase will be from step 6 to step 7 of Field Foreman in the salary range schedule.
- D. Merit increase for Darrell Jew, Fisheries Specialist: Jew is being recommended for a salary increase effective June 1, 2021. The salary increase will be from step 5 to step 6 of Fisheries Specialist in the salary range schedule.

A motion was made by Ghag and seconded by Kirchner approving the consent agenda. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

APPROVAL TO DEPOSIT FUNDS FROM THE SALE OF SURPLUS ITEMS INTO THE OPERATING BUDGET: A motion was made by Guzman and seconded by Kirchner to deposit \$29,997.46, from the sale of surplus items into the operating budget. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

RESOLUTION 06-10-21; RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE SUTTER-YUBA MOSQUITO AND VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT DETERMINING AND LEVYING AN ASSESSMENT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022 AGAINST ALL TAXABLE PARCELS OF LAND WITHIN THE MERIDIAN AREA OF THE DISTRICT TO PAY FOR THE COSTS OF VECTOR SURVEILLANCE AND CONTROL ON THOSE LANDS: This year, the per parcel assessment calculation is \$41.74. The 2021-2022 assessment is a decrease from \$42.92 for fiscal year 2020-2021. The maximum amount that can be levied per parcel is forty-five dollars. A motion was made by Sanbrook and seconded by Schmidl approving Resolution 06-10-21. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

RENEWAL OF NON-OWNED AIRCRAFT LIABILITY INSURANCE: Abshier stated that this liability policy would be in addition to coverage that we contractually require our contractor to maintain. The contractor's insurance would be the primary insurance and ours would be secondary insurance. Abshier noted the policy limits are \$2,000,000 chemical and non-chemical, \$4,000,000 aggregate, available at a cost of \$7,693, an increase of 13.8% over fiscal year 2020-2021. Abshier noted the coverage is well worth the cost, as our contractor performed over eighty-five flight missions last year. The green pool surveillance flight mission would also be covered by this policy. A motion was made by Sanbrook and seconded by Ghag approving the renewal of the \$7,693 non-owned aircraft liability insurance with AvQuest. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE REPORT: Sanbrook explained that the employees met with Link and himself prior to the Board meeting. The employees are requesting a 5% cost of living adjustment and raising sick leave paid at retirement from 35% to 45% of amount accumulated, leaving the cap at 480 hours. Link noted that the employees provided information regarding approved COLAs from local Districts, Butte, Placer, Sac/Yolo and Shasta Mosquito Control Districts. Sanbrook expressed concern over

potential unfunded liabilities, that a higher percentage of accumulated sick leave, payable upon retirement could incur. Abshier noted one employee is close to retirement, the next two employees are eight and 15 years from retirement. A motion was made by Schmidl and seconded by Sanbrook approving a 3.5% cost of living adjustment for permanent employees and raising the sick leave paid at retirement, from 35% to 45%, capped at 480 hours. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

PRELIMINARY BUDGET APPROVAL FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022: Board members were provided a preliminary budget for review. Abshier reported the Salaries and Benefits budget will decrease 4.4%, or \$96,051 below FY 2020-2021. The amount is largely due to a significantly lower contribution projection for fully funding the defined benefit plan. There are three participants remaining in the plan. One participant has reached age 62 and will not earn any additional benefit. The 2021-2022 budget includes a 5% cost of living increase for the permanent positions. Included in the budget is an increase to the Mosquito Control Aide hourly rate, to start at \$16/hour beginning July 1, 2021, adding a permanent Mosquito Control I starting October 1, 2021 and a Vector Ecologist in March 2022. To be prepared for potential increased health insurance costs on January 1, 2022, a 10% increase has been included.

The Services and Supplies portion of the budget will see an increase of 5.3%, or \$83,856 over the approved budget for fiscal year 2020-2021. Increasing pesticide costs and increases in contracted aircraft services, as well as earlier timed applications for *Culex* mosquito control, addressing invasive *Aedes* mosquitoes and controlling mosquitoes produced at fall flood ups can be attributed to the increase.

The Fixed Assets portion of the budget for fiscal year 2021-2022 reflects a 40% increase over the approved budget for fiscal year 2020-2021. The majority of the increase can be attributed to the cost of the asphalt project. However \$85,000 that was appropriated to a reserve for the project last fiscal year will be brought into the operating budget.

The total budgeted expenditures for fiscal year 2021-2022 indicate an increase of 1.7% or \$66,505 over the approved budget for fiscal year 2020-2021.

The total revenues for fiscal year 2021-2022 should be sufficient to cover the \$4,060,287 budget for fiscal year 2021-2022.

A motion was made by Guzman and seconded by Ghag approving the Preliminary Budget for fiscal year 2021-2022. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

MANAGER COMMENTS: Abshier reported that West Nile virus activity has had a slower start this year. Three mosquito pools have tested positive state wide, year to date. Six dead birds have tested positive, four in Sacramento County. Los Angeles and San Joaquin counties have each reported one dead bird. All chickens have tested negative statewide. No human cases have been reported. Our New Jersey Light Trap counts for *tarsalis* are moving upwards with their peak typically the week of July 4th. *Pipiens* are close to last year's numbers. *Anopheles* numbers continue to be low also.

Abshier also noted:

- The aerial green swimming pool surveillance flight was performed on May 20th.
- Spraying by ground of the agricultural areas will begin next week. Town fogging is slated to begin July 1st. Aerial larviciding will begin the 4th week of June.
- Catch basin treatments are almost complete in urban areas. In three months, basins will be checked again and treated as necessary.
- Staff is receiving training for respirators, labels, heat illness and safe driving.
- Fogging began early in the Edgewater area due to
- large numbers of *Culex* mosquitoes. Edgewater and agricultural areas to the south have been the target.
- Fish planting of rice fields began on June 4, 2021.
- Bill Terbush successfully tested with DPR for his Qualified Applicators Certificate.
- Devin Lake passed categories A&B with CDPH, one seasonal employee tested successfully and one did not.
- All materials in PFAS containers have been replaced with materials in PFAS free packaging. There is some difficulty finding certain materials in 2.5 and 30 gallon packaging.

- James Barker co-owner of our fish rearing facility in Nicolaus passed away recently. The District sent flowers on behalf of trustees and staff and we will be in contact with his wife at a later date.

TRUSTEE COMMENTS: None

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, a motion was made by Schmidl and seconded by Ghag to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote. President Harris adjourned the meeting.

John Sanbrook, Board Secretary